

cannot be detected whether it is of the face-up ejection type ("NO" or "UNKNOWN" at step S75), then control proceeds to step S77. Here it is construed that it would be inappropriate to perform reprinting of all

5 pages that were to be printed by the faulty printer by the printers that printed the preceding and succeeding pages. Accordingly, the reprint job is introduced to the printer or bin specified in area 44 of Fig. 4. Control then proceeds to step S56 in Fig. 5.

10 According to the flowchart shown in Fig. 7, when assigning at least a part of a print job to be printed by a given printer to another printer in accordance with the status (malfunction) of the printer, the other printer can be decided in such a manner that the optimal  
15 print job assignment can be achieved in accordance with the paper ejection type of the other printer.

Fig. 8 is a flowchart illustrating processing in a case where only a page for which printing failed is to be reprinted from among pages that were to be printed by  
20 a faulty printer, and

VE PRIORITY TO PRINTING BY PRINTER THAT PRINTED PRECEDING OR SUCCEEDING PAGES" has been selected at item 42 in Fig. 4.

First, at step S80, the type of paper ejection of a  
25 faulty printer is determined. If the faulty printer is of the face-down ejection type, the process proceeds to step S81, whereas, if the faulty printer is of the face-

up ejection type, the process proceeds to step S83. If the type is not known, then the process proceeds to step S85.

At step S81, it is determined whether a printer  
5 that printed pages preceding all pages that were to be printed by a faulty printer is of the face-down ejection type. In a case where a page that was to be printed by the faulty printer includes the first page of all pages to undergo distributed printing, it is determined  
10 whether the printer that printed the final page is of the face-down ejection type. If the printer that printed the preceding pages is of the face-down ejection type ("YES" at step S81), then the reprint job reconstructed at step S67 of Fig. 6 is introduced to  
15 this printer at step S82.

On the other hand, if the printer that printed the preceding pages is not of the type that ejects paper face-down, or if the type of printer is unknown because it cannot be detected whether it is of the face-down  
20 ejection type ("NO" or "UNKNOWN" at step S81), then control proceeds to step S85.

Whereas, at step S83, it is determined whether a printer that printed pages succeeding all pages that were to be printed by a faulty printer is of the face-up  
25 ejection type. In a case where a page that was to be printed by the faulty printer includes the final page of all pages to undergo distributed printing, it is

determined whether the printer that printed the first page is of the face-up ejection type. If the printer that printed the succeeding pages is of the face-up ejection type ("YES" at step S83), then the reprint job  
5 reconstructed at step S67 of Fig. 6 is introduced to this printer at step S84.

On the other hand, if the printer that printed the succeeding pages is not of the type that ejects paper fact-up, or if the type of printer is unknown because it  
10 cannot be detected whether it is of the face-up ejection type ("NO" or "UNKNOWN" at step S83), then control proceeds to step S85. Here it is construed that it would be inappropriate to perform reprinting of all pages that were to be printed by the faulty printer by  
15 the printers that printed the succeeding pages. Accordingly, the print job reconstructed at step S67 of Fig. 6 is introduced to the printer or bin specified in area 44 of Fig. 4. Control then proceeds to step S56 in Fig. 5. According to the present invention as described  
20 above, whether a printer which prints the succeeding pages or a printer which prints the preceding pages is to be checked is determined on the basis of the paper ejection type, i.e., face-up ejection or face-down ejection, of a malfunctioning printer. Further,  
25 information on the paper ejection type of the printer which is determined to be checked is obtained, and the distributed job is reassigned so that the pages of the